Return of Gold of Goans deposited with the Portuguese banks

@3640(D). SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 98 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd November, 1988 and state:

(a) whether Government have since received a formal communication from the Portuguese Government regarding the modalities of signing an agreement which would result in the return of the gold ornaments of Indian Nationals held in deposit with the Portuguese Bank before the liberation of Goa in 1961 to the rightful owners legal heirs; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(b) what other steps Government propose to take, besides those being already taken, to obtain India's dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Government have been pursuing the matter relating to the return of gold ornaments presently held with Banco National Ultramarino (BNU), Lisbon with the concerned Portuguese authorities through diplomatic channels. In May 1984, a delegation of State Bank of India (SBI) visited Lisbon and finalised with BNU the draft agreement to be entered into between the two banks in this regard. Subsequently, 1987, the Portuguese authorities suggested certain amendments to the draft agreement which were agreed to by the Government. The Indian Embassy in Lisbon has also pursued the matter with Portuguese authorities. We had received repeated assurances from the Government of Portugal for their desire to resovle this issue at the earliest possible. However, a formal communication from the Portuguese authorities agreeing to the modalities of signing an agreement between the State Bank of India and BNU, Lisbon which would result in the return of the gold ornaments was not forthcoming. The Portuguese authorit.es have recently suggested a further modified draft of the agreement which is under examination.

@Previously Unstarred Question 3403 transferred from 29th March, 1989

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

कुमारी सईदा खातून (मध्य प्रदेश) : सर, मैंने पहले भी रिक्वेस्ट किया कि कम से कम एक महिला को तो रोज चांस देना चाहिये ।

श्री सभापति : महिला का सवाल नहीं है, यहां सब बराबर हैं। यहां हाउस में महिला का कोई सवाल नहीं है आप तो महिलाओं में भी, I cannot give monopoly to Kumari Sayeeda Khatun.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, it is my monopoly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am giving monopoly to the Deputy Chairman.

(**The Deputy Chairman** in the Chair).

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA (Assam) : Madam, I would like to make a small point.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the papers be laid on the Table of the House. Then you can raise your point. Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

Constitution (Sixty first Amendment) Bill, 1988

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Bill, 1988, as passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Hundred and Forty-eighth Sesson of the Rajya Sabha and assented to by the President on the 28th March, 1989.

I. **Report and Accounts (1987-88) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore and related papers.**

II. **Report and Accounts (1987-88) of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited Lacknow and related papers.**

III. **Report and Accounts (1987-88) of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi and related papers.**

IV. **Report and Accounts (1987-88) of the All India Handloom Febrics Marketing Cooperative Society Limited, New Delhi and related papers.**